

1 March 1977

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Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN
Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces
Southern Europe
Naples, Italy

Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'N' or 'R'.

Dear Admiral Turner:

Though [redacted] will certainly attend the ceremony tomorrow, there will be no opportunity there for me to express certain thoughts to you which I sincerely want to express. And your hasty departure for Washington will preclude further opportunity to do so. Thus, I hope that in a more quiet moment, you may have occasion to read these few lines.

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Your departure from Naples represents a great loss both to NATO and to the community. And one hopes that your successor will carry on in your innovative example. Your reputation for innovation and foresight of course preceded your arrival here, and so your approach to the assignment proved no surprise to most NATO watchers.

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But it is your new appointment that this note is all about. Your acceptance of it has given me -- and many other Americans -- a feeling of great pride. It is President Carter who is to be congratulated in the selection of a man of your stature to head the CIA. It is admiration that is due you for your acceptance of the responsibility of directing that embattled agency and for placing yourself directly in the public eye and on the firing line of world opinion. A lesser man might well cringe. For what it's worth, Admiral, I as an American, thank you for taking the job.

If I may ever be of personal service to you in any way, I do hope you will call on me.

With the very best wishes,

[Redacted signature area]

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